

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's telephone call on March 22nd to inquire whether a response would be prepared to the August 26th 2003 office action. As discussed further with the Examiner on March 23rd with Applicants' representative, Jon Hallman, the office action was never received by the Applicants. However, as shown by the certificate of transmission (dated August 25th 2003) on the enclosed copy of the submission of power of attorney, Applicants had changed their correspondence address prior to the mailing of the August 26th office action. Accordingly, because 37 CFR 1.6 (3) requires the USPTO to treat the power of attorney/address change as being received on August 25th 2003, Applicants respectfully submit that the August 26th office action was mailed to the wrong address. Thus, the August 26th office action should be withdrawn and resubmitted with a new date of mailing so that Applicants may timely respond.

In addition, Applicants' representative inquired whether the Examiner had received the supplemental response to the April 10th 2003 office action that was transmitted to the USPTO on November 25th 2003. Although the Examiner indicated that there was no record of such a response, the enclosed response includes a certificate of transmission showing that it was sent on November 25th 2003. Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 31 through 40 are allowable over the art of record.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the August 26th Office Action be withdrawn and resubmitted with a new mailing date. In addition, Applicants respectfully request that the November 25th supplemental response be entered.

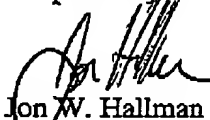
If there are any questions regarding any aspect of the application, please call the undersigned at 949-752-7040.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to (703) 872-9306: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 23, 2004.

Eric Hoover

March 23, 2004
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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